

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02

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PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00

NSC-05 BIB-01 /088 R

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA

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USNMR SHAP RUSNAAA/USCINCEUR

S E C R E T STATE 072004

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: BUNDESWEHR RESTRUCTURING PLAN

REF: USDEL MBFR AIRGRAM A-015, MARCH 5, 1975

1. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE PRESENT PEACETIME

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STRUCTURE OF THE BUNDESWEHR IS COMPRISED OF AN AUTHORIZED

495,000-MAN ACTIVE DUTY FORCE PLUS A 30,000-MAN READY RESERVE FORCE. UNDER THE RESTRUCTURING PLANS APPROVED BY PARLIAMENT IN FEBRUARY 1975, THIS CURRENT STRUCTURE WILL NOT BE CHANGED UNTIL "SATISFACTORY RESULTS" HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED IN THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. AFTER THAT, THE BUNDESWEHR WILL BE STRUCTURED TO BE COMPRISED OF AN AUTHORIZED PEACETIME FORCE OF 495,000 INCLUDING 465,000 MEN ON ACTIVE DUTY AND 30,000 MEN IN A STANDBY READINESS FORCE.

2. THE REFERENCED AIRGRAM CALLS INTO QUESTION OUR UNDERSTANDING OF CURRENT AND PROJECTED FORCE STRUCTURES. THE AIRGRAM REPORTS THAT THE WEST GERMANS INTEND TO INCREASE THE AUTHORIZED STRENGTH LEVEL OF THE BUNDESWEHR TO 500,000 MEN, COMPRISED OF 495,000 REGULAR ACTIVE DUTY." MBFR REDUCTIONS WOULD NOT BE TAKEN FROM THE TOTAL 500,000 MEN BUT ONLY FROM THE 495,000 REGULARS ON ACTIVE DUTY. FURTHERMORE,

THE GERMANS WOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO TAKE THEIR MBFR REDUCTIONS BY A TRANSFER IN THE STATUS OF REGULAR ACTIVE DUTY TROOPS TO A RESERVE STATUS.

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION OR CLARIFICATION OF THE GERMAN PLANS. WE ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN WHETHER THE GERMAN MBFR DELEGATES WERE SPEAKING OF THE EXISTING "READY RESERVE" OR THE PROPOSED "STANDBY READINESS FORCE" WHICH, ACCORDING TO OUR CURRENT UNDERSTANDING, CAN ONLY BE CREATED FOLLOWING AN MBFR AGREEMENT. OR, HAVE THE GERMANS NOW DECIDED TO CREATE THE STANDBY READINESS FORCE BEFORE AN AGREEMENT INVOLVING FRG REDUCTIONS? ADDITIONALLY, WILL THE 5,000 "READY RESERVES" TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 500,000 PEACETIME STRENGTH BE REGULARLY ON FULL-TIME ACTIVE DUTY IN UNITS OR DOES THE 5,000-MAN FIGURE REPRESENT AN AVERAGE NUMBER OF "READY RESERVISTS" SERVING SHORT TOURS OF ACTIVE DUTY FOR TRAINING? WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION ON GERMAN INTENTIONS TO TAKE THEIR MBFR REDUCTIONS BY THINNING OUT OR BY DISBANDING ACTIVE UNITS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS, MILITARY CAPABILITIES, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE072004
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LFISCHER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750111-0539
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975032/aaaaaaxa.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ACDA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 USDEL MBFR AIRGRAM A-015, 75 MARCH 5, 75 1975
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <22 SEP 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR: BUNDESWEHR RESTRUCTURING PLAN
TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR
To: BONN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006